









VDPD

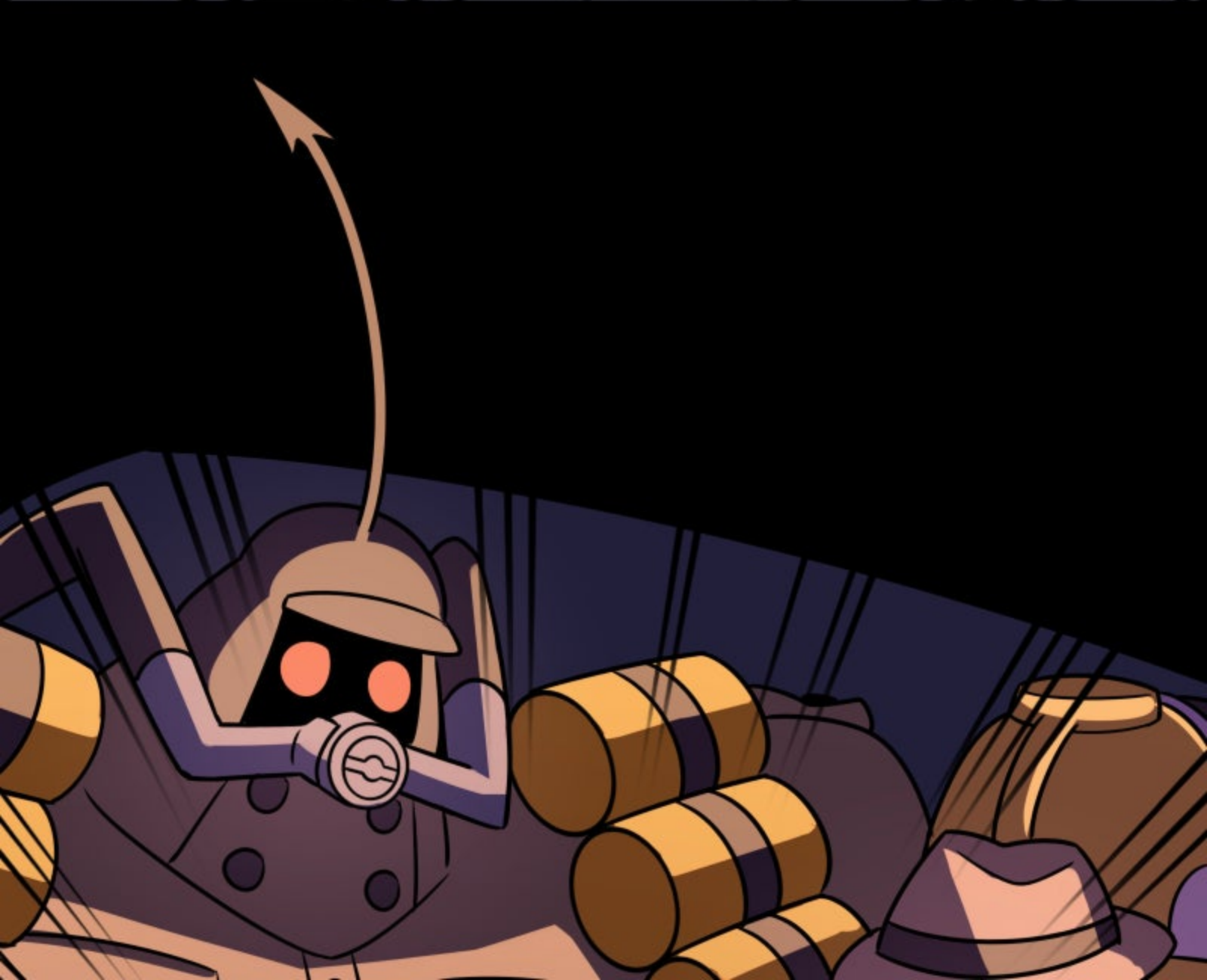




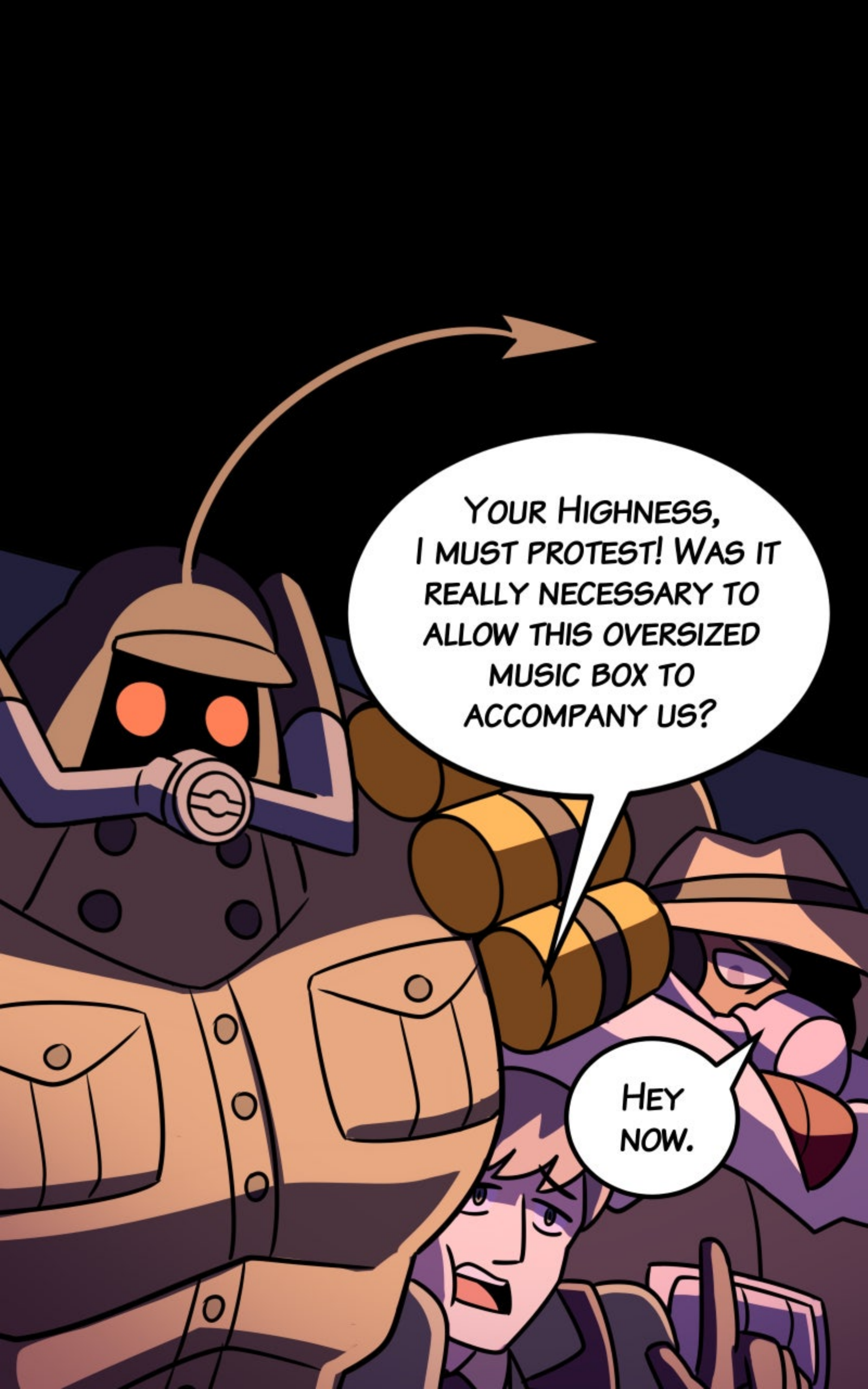


VRRRM









YOUR HIGHNESS,
I MUST PROTEST! WAS IT
REALLY NECESSARY TO
ALLOW THIS OVERSIZED
MUSIC BOX TO
ACCOMPANY US?

HEY
NOW.





THAT'S
ENOUGH, BOTH
OF YOU.



YOU SEE WHAT'S
OUT THERE AWAITING US.
AN ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD
IS BEING LAID TO WASTE.

WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO BE AT ODDS, WE NEED
TO WORK TOGETHER. THE
RIDE MAY BE BUMPY, BUT
WE'LL ENDURE IT BECAUSE
WE HAVE TO, IS THAT

CLEAR?

SHOULDN'T BE TOO
MUCH LONGER. LUCKILY
THE STREETS ARE EMPTY
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT.









HEY! WATCH
WHERE YOU'RE GOING,
YOU MANIAC! WHAT
ARE YOU, NUTS OR
SOMETHING!?



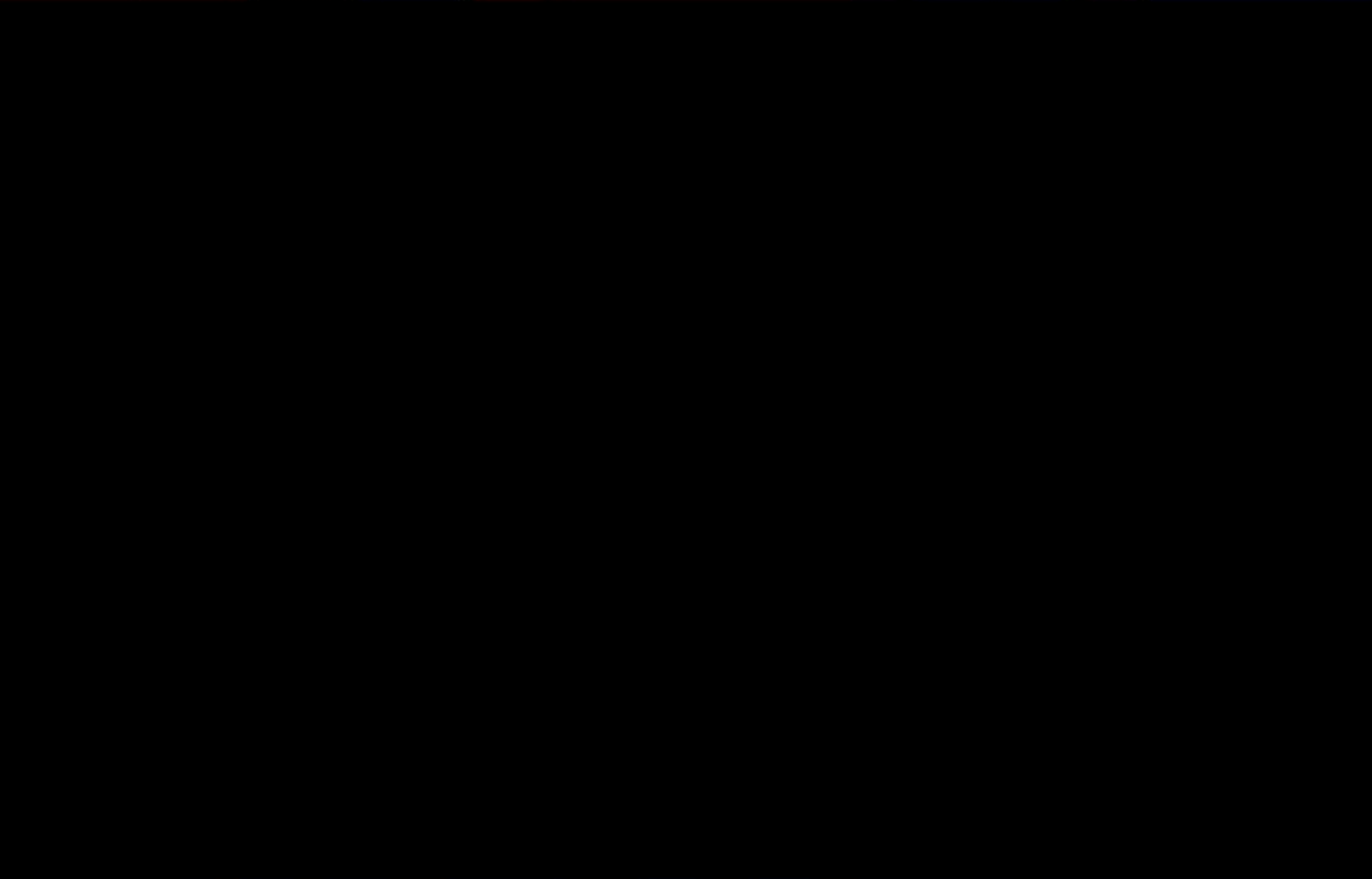


WHY SURE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
HANG FROM A TREE
12 OF A MIN!

TO BE A NUT!

NOW C'MON
AND STEP ON IT,
TOOTS!













WHAT ARE
WE DOING?

STALKING.

OKAY, BUT WHY HERE?
I DOUBT THIEVES SMART
ENOUGH TO ROB LORENZO
MEDICI ARE COWERING IN
SOME STINKIN' ALLEY. IT'S
DISGUSTING!



WE CAN'T ALL AFFORD
THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE,
NOR A CUSHY POSITION
WITH THE MEDICI.

YOU SAYING THAT'S ME?
LIKE I DIDN'T SCRAPE AND
CLAW FOR WHAT'S MINE?
YOU DON'T KNOW A THING
ABOUT ME!





I KNOW YOUR
FORTUNES ARE MARKEDLY
BETTER THAN MOST OF
YOUR STATION, NO MATTER
HOW YOU MIGHT HAVE
COME ABOUT THEM.

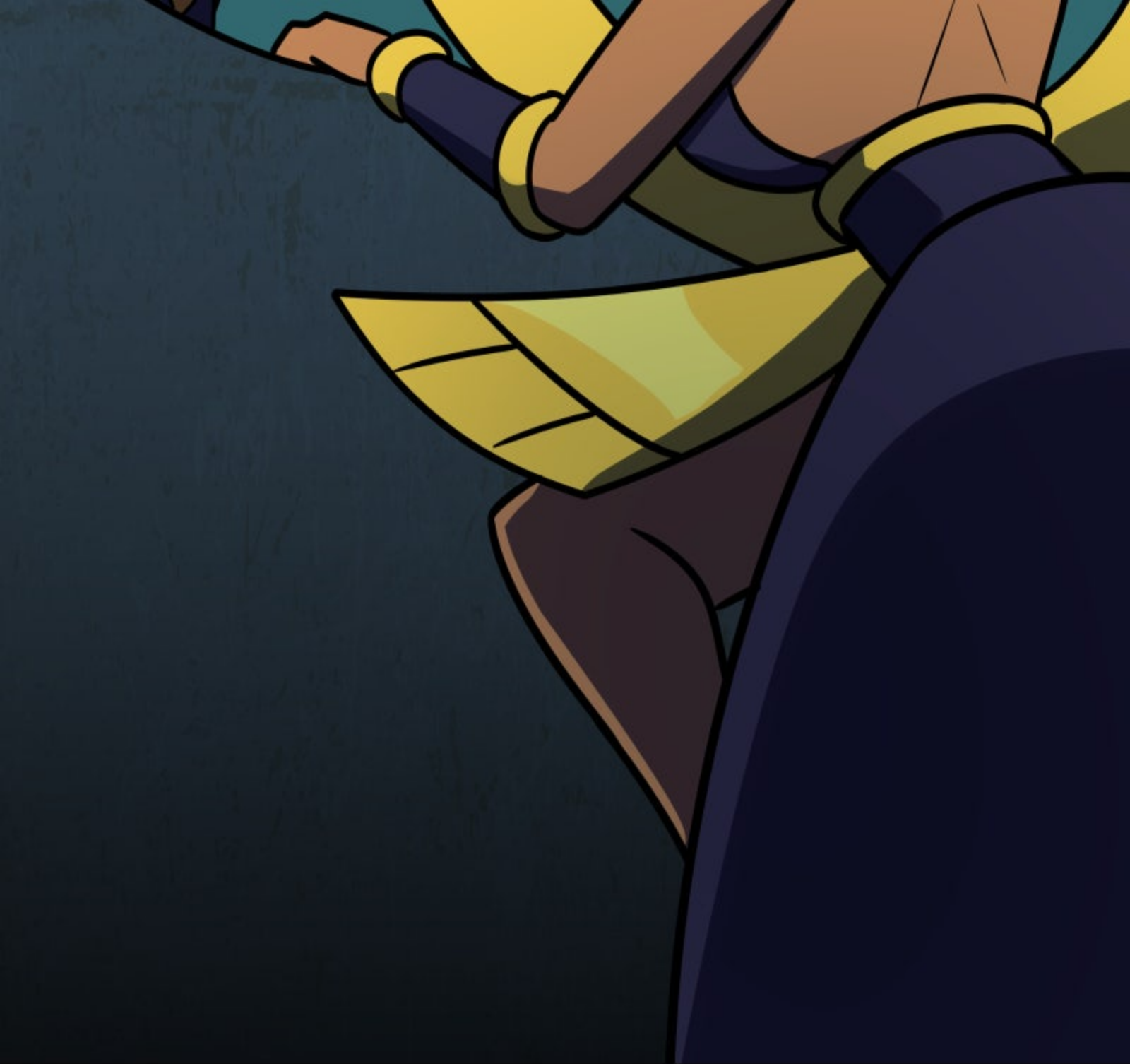


A comic book panel featuring two characters. On the left, a character with short teal hair and a surprised expression wears a purple and orange outfit with a skull on her head. On the right, a character with long purple hair and a confident smile wears a purple dress and a crown with a blue gem. A large yellow ring is positioned between them. A speech bubble from the purple-haired character contains the text. The background is a dark teal wall with a large orange shape on the left and a blue eye-like symbol on the right.

BUT SOMETIMES IT'S
NECESSARY TO GET BACK
INTO THE MUCK AND MIRE, TO
REMIND OURSELVES WHERE
WE COME FROM... WHAT WE'RE
FIGHTING TO KEEP.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I MEAN, THAT'S JUST AN
EXPRESSION, RIGHT?!

BETTER HURRY,
BEFORE THE TRAIL
GROWS COLD.



OH HH NO! YOU AIN'T
GETTIN' ME IN THAT DEN

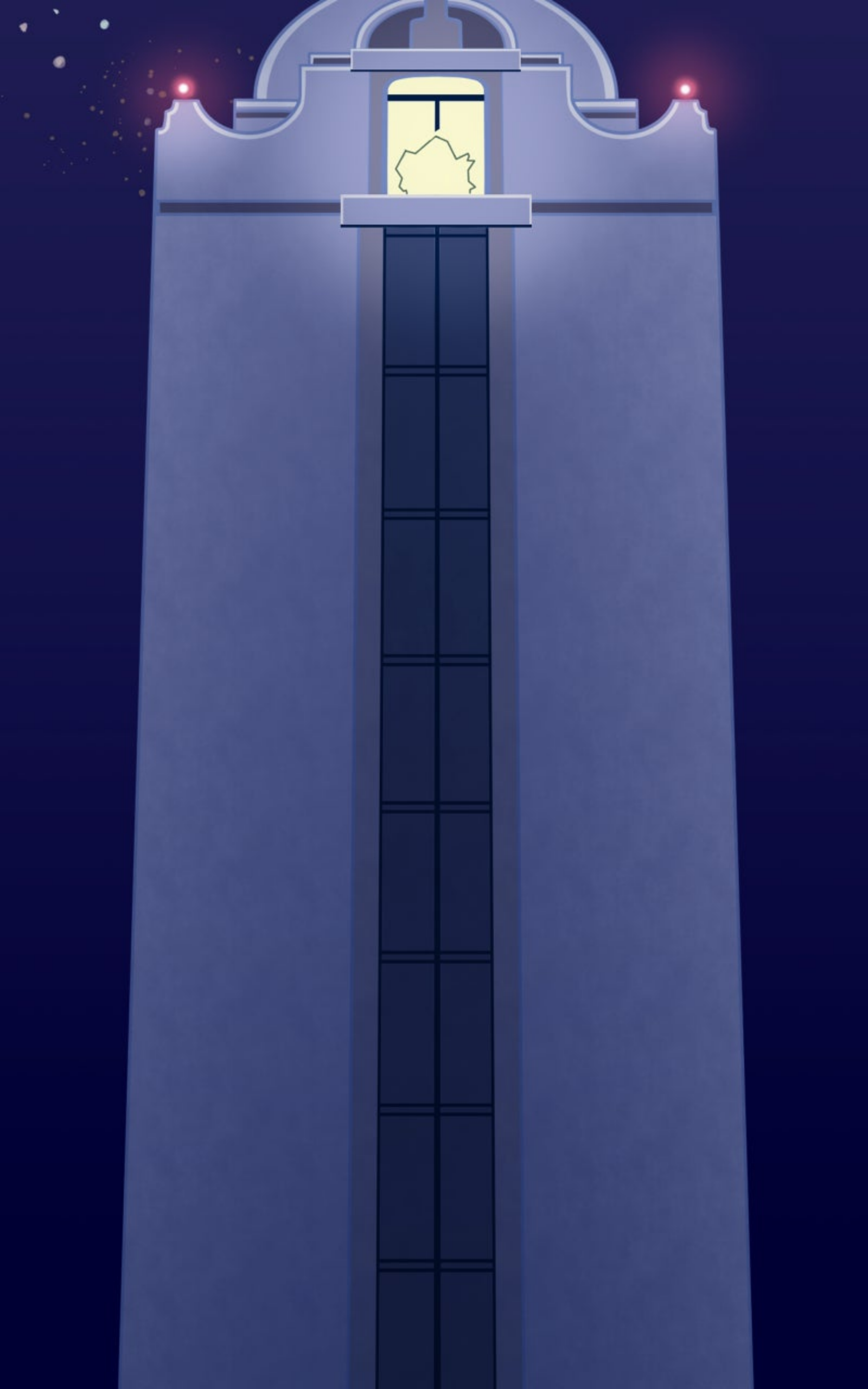


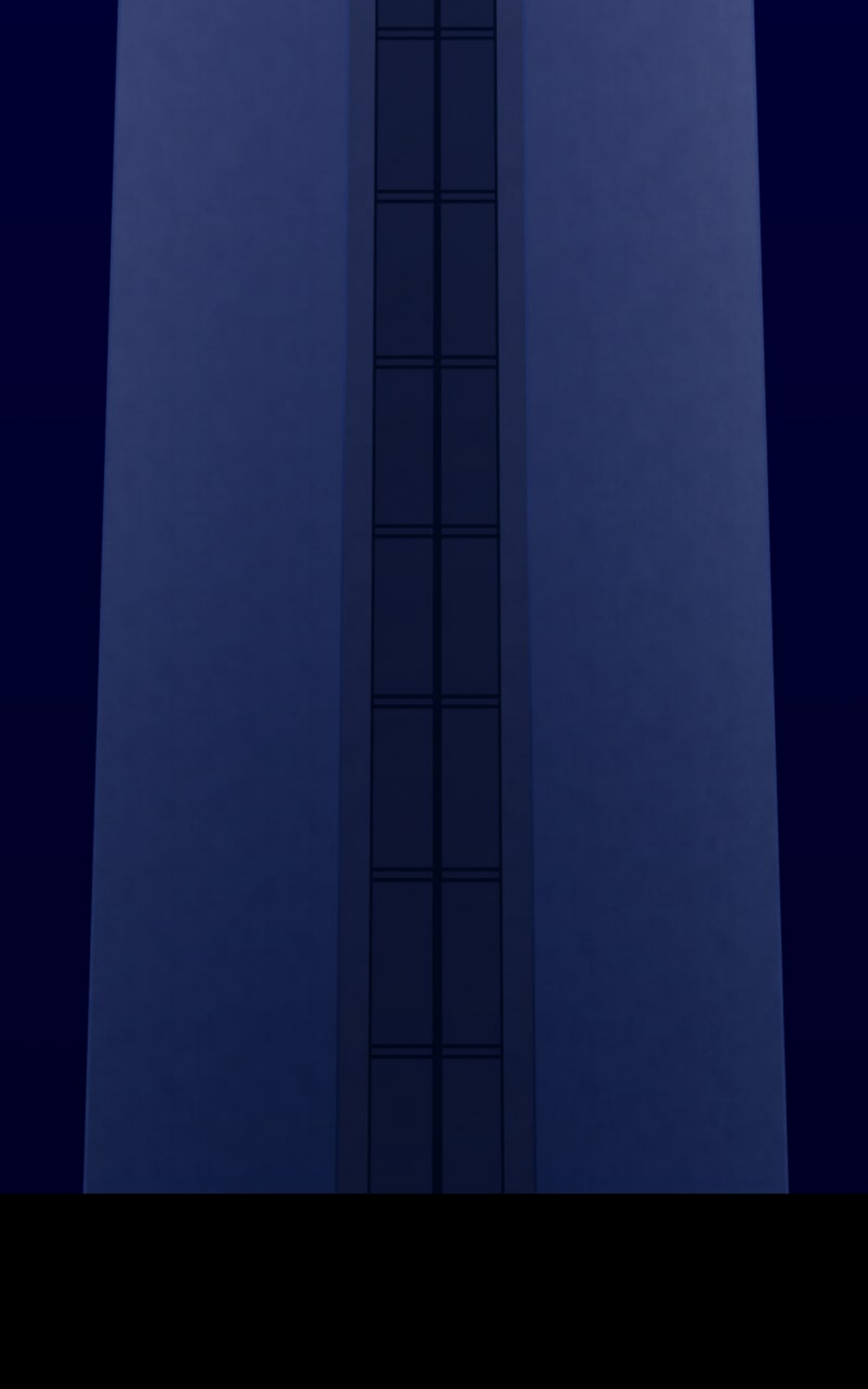


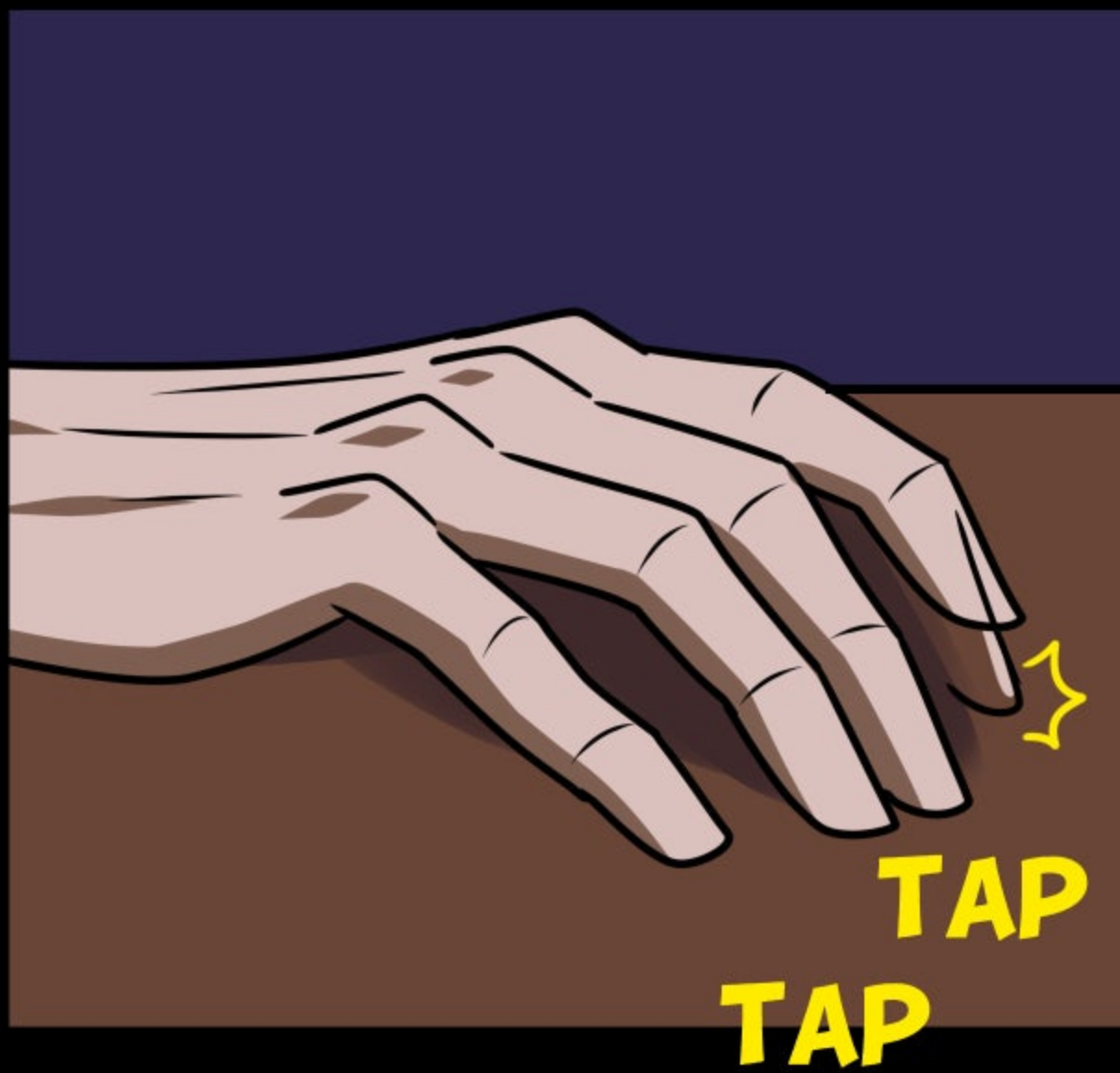
UGH!

WAIT FOR ME.









ALL THIS TIME...
AND I NEVER EVEN

AND I NEVER EVEN
SUSPECTED...



I KNOW... I KNOW...

I KNEW... KNEW
THERE WAS SOMETHING
OFF ABOUT YOUR YOUTH
AND VITALITY, HOW YOU
MANAGED TO ALWAYS LOOK
AS IF THE YEARS COULDN'T
TOUCH YOU, BUT THIS...

IT'S IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
MY NAME IS THE ONE
THAT MEANS LIFE, AND YET
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S
CHEATED DEATH. SO FAR,
AT LEAST.





SHUT UP! I'M TIRED
OF HEARING YOU
RUN YOUR MOUTH!





BAM!

ENOUGH OF ALL
THIS POINTLESS
SITTING AROUND...

DAHLIA!
GET OUT THERE
AND GET MY
DAMN GEM BACK.





DO THIS FOR ME
AND YOU CAN WRITE YOUR
OWN TICKET, YOU HEAR?
ANYTHING YOU WANT, AND
I MEAN ANYTHING.



IS THAT REALLY
NECESSARY? I'VE ALREADY
HIRED AN OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR,
AND SENT CEREBELLA BESIDES. I
FEEL CERTAIN THE GEM WILL BE
RETURNED WITH DUE HASTE.

ANOTHER PLAYER
MAY MUDDY THE WATERS

FURTHER, MAKING THE
THIEVES HARDER TO
LOCATE.



SO YOU'RE SAYING
YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED, IS
THAT IT? DEAR OLD DAD'S GOT
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I MAY LOOK FEEBLE,
BUT I'M ANYTHING BUT, BOY.
THE ONLY HAND I TRUST TO

STEER THIS SHIP IS MY OWN. YOU
TRY TO TAKE THE WHEEL AGAIN,
AND YOU MIGHT END UP LOSING
AN APPENDAGE.





YOU'D DO WELL TO
REMEMBER THAT.

AS YOU SAY...
FATHER.





DISPATCH, DO YOU READ?
REQUESTING IMMEDIATE
BACKUP TO MAPLECREST!
WE'RE GETTING KILLED
OUT HERE!









THE SKULLGIRL
HAS US
OUTGUNNED!

YOUR POCKETS ARE
HEAVY WITH THE BLOODSTAINED
MONEY OF THE MEDICI. IF YOU
DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SENSE TO
FLEE FOR YOUR PATHETIC LIVES,
I'LL PUT YOU LAPDOGS DOWN
WITH YOUR MASTERS!



THEY'RE STILL
COMING!

KEEP
FIRING!

WHAT DO
WE DO?!

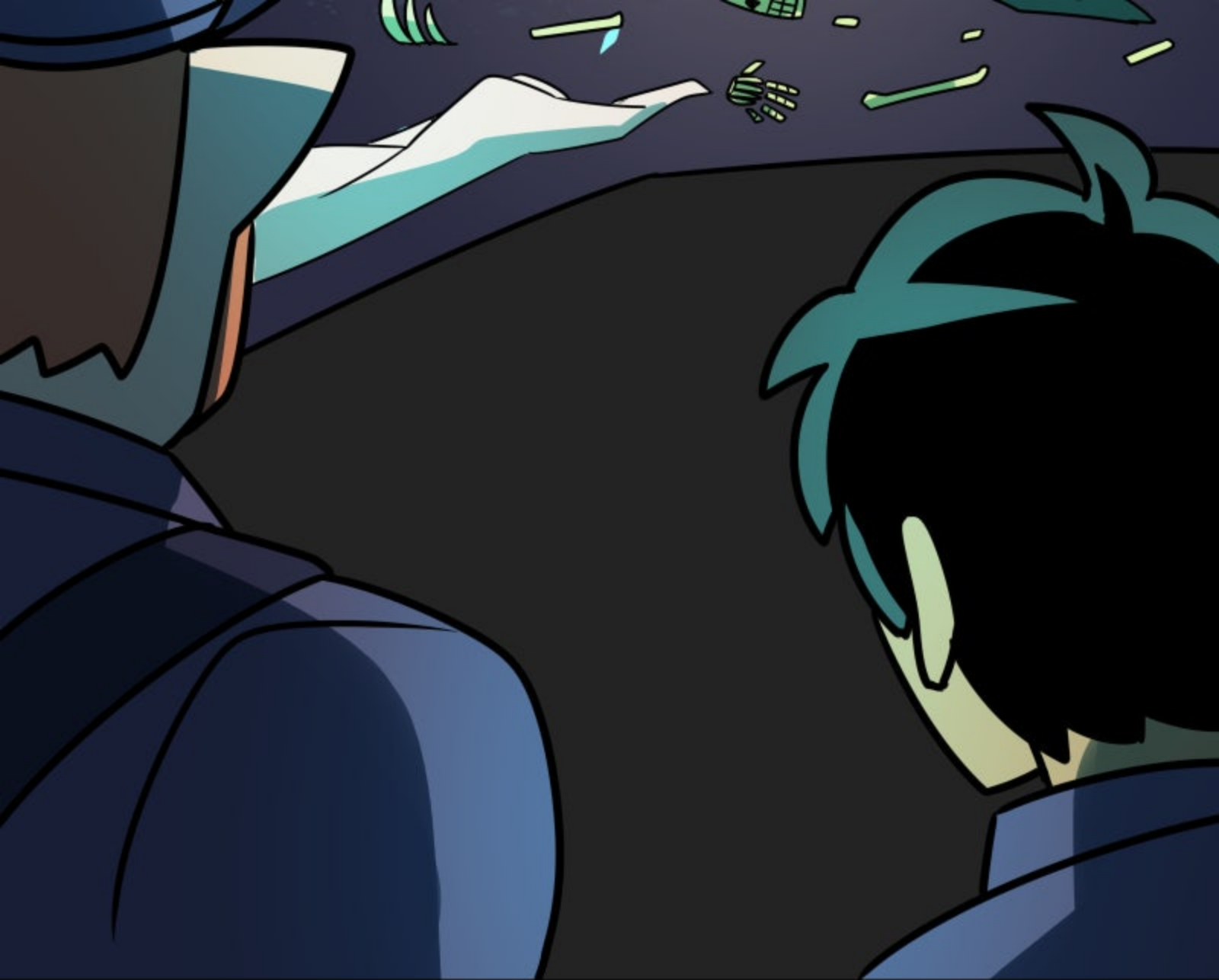
PLEASE
NO!











THEY... THEY
WENT ALL TO
PIECES.

YEAH, BUT

HOW?



YOU CAN STAND
DOWN, OFFICERS.
YOU'VE DONE YOUR
PART.





WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE.





WHAT SHE
SAID.



✎ CREDITS ✎



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